

# little shop of horrors musical script

**little shop of horrors musical script** is a popular and enduring piece of theatrical literature that has captivated audiences since its debut. This musical script combines elements of comedy, horror, and science fiction, telling the unique story of a meek florist who discovers a mysterious plant with a craving for human blood. The script is renowned for its witty dialogue, memorable characters, and catchy songs, making it a favorite among theater groups and enthusiasts worldwide. Understanding the structure, characters, and themes of the little shop of horrors musical script is essential for anyone interested in performing or studying this iconic work. This article provides an in-depth exploration of the script, its origins, key elements, and its significance in musical theater history. Below is a detailed table of contents to guide readers through the main topics discussed.

- Overview and Origins of Little Shop of Horrors
- Plot Summary and Key Scenes
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- Musical Numbers and Script Integration
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## Overview and Origins of Little Shop of Horrors

The little shop of horrors musical script originated from a 1960s low-budget horror comedy film written by Charles B. Griffith. The story was later adapted into a stage musical by writer and composer Alan Menken and lyricist Howard Ashman in 1982. This stage adaptation significantly expanded the narrative, incorporating a blend of humor, horror, and rock music, which contributed to its widespread popularity. The script showcases a unique blend of genres, combining elements of camp, satire, and science fiction to create a distinctive theatrical experience. The musical script reflects the cultural context of the early 1980s while paying homage to B-movie horror traditions. Over the years, the little shop of horrors musical script has been performed extensively, becoming a staple in community theater, schools, and professional productions alike.

## Historical Background

The original film inspired the musical adaptation, which premiered off-Broadway in 1982. The musical script was developed to include new songs and dialogue that expanded character development and plot complexity. This transformation allowed the story to transition from a cult film to a beloved theatrical piece. The script's clever writing and catchy tunes have helped it maintain relevance and appeal for decades.

## **Creative Team**

Alan Menken and Howard Ashman brought a fresh musical perspective to the story, combining catchy melodies with sharp, witty lyrics. Their collaboration resulted in a script that masterfully balances humor and suspense while delivering memorable musical numbers. The creative team's work on the little shop of horrors musical script is often credited with helping to launch their successful careers in musical theater and film.

## **Plot Summary and Key Scenes**

The little shop of horrors musical script follows Seymour Krelborn, a shy and awkward florist who discovers a strange plant he names Audrey II. This carnivorous plant quickly becomes the center of attention, but its growth is fueled by an insatiable appetite for human blood. The plot explores Seymour's moral dilemmas as he struggles to satisfy the plant's demands while dealing with personal and romantic challenges. The script is structured around key scenes that highlight the tension between comedic and horror elements, maintaining a fast-paced and engaging narrative.

### **Act One Highlights**

Act One introduces the audience to the rundown flower shop, Seymour's unrequited love for Audrey, and the discovery of Audrey II. Key scenes include the plant's initial growth, Seymour's rise in popularity due to the plant's uniqueness, and the first sinister demand from Audrey II. The script uses sharp dialogue and musical numbers to build suspense and develop characters.

### **Act Two Highlights**

In Act Two, the consequences of feeding Audrey II human blood become apparent, leading to increased tension and moral conflict. Seymour faces difficult decisions as the plant's demands escalate, culminating in a dramatic and unexpected climax. The script's second act intensifies the blend of humor and horror, offering a satisfying resolution to the story's central conflicts.

## **Main Characters and Their Roles**

The little shop of horrors musical script features a compact cast of memorable characters, each contributing to the story's dynamic. Understanding their roles and relationships is crucial for interpreting the script and delivering an effective performance. The characters range from the timid protagonist to a demanding plant and a variety of supporting roles that add depth and humor.

### **Seymour Krelborn**

Seymour is the central character, a meek florist who discovers Audrey II. His journey from a downtrodden employee to a conflicted individual grappling with

moral choices forms the narrative core of the script. His character development is portrayed through both dialogue and musical numbers.

## Audrey

Audrey is Seymour's love interest, characterized by her kindness and naive optimism. She works at the flower shop and dreams of a better life. Her relationship with Seymour adds emotional depth to the script and drives many of the plot's events.

## Audrey II

Audrey II is the carnivorous plant that demands human blood to grow. It functions as both a character and a symbolic force within the script, representing temptation, greed, and the consequences of unethical choices. The plant's growing influence over Seymour creates the central conflict of the musical.

## Supporting Characters

Other characters in the script include Mr. Mushnik, the flower shop owner; Orin Scrivello, a sadistic dentist; and a trio of street-smart singers who provide commentary and musical support. These roles enhance the story's humor and thematic complexity.

## Musical Numbers and Script Integration

The little shop of horrors musical script is distinguished by its integration of musical numbers that advance the plot and develop characters. The songs vary in style, incorporating rock, doo-wop, and Motown influences, which complement the script's tone and setting. Each musical number is carefully crafted to fit seamlessly into the narrative structure.

## Key Songs

- "Skid Row (Downtown)" - Establishes the setting and characters' struggles.
- "Grow for Me" - Highlights Seymour's discovery of Audrey II and his hopes.
- "Suddenly, Seymour" - Expresses the romantic development between Seymour and Audrey.
- "Feed Me (Git It)" - Showcases Audrey II's manipulative nature and demand for blood.
- "Somewhere That's Green" - Reveals Audrey's dreams and desires.

## **Role of Music in the Script**

Music in the little shop of horrors musical script functions as a narrative device, providing emotional insight and pacing. The songs often use lyrical storytelling to reveal characters' inner thoughts and motivations, enhancing audience engagement. The musical numbers also serve to balance the comedic and horror elements, maintaining a consistent tone throughout the production.

## **Script Format and Performance Rights**

The little shop of horrors musical script is typically published in a standard musical theater format, including dialogue, stage directions, and musical score. This format facilitates clear communication among directors, actors, and production teams. Accessing the official script requires obtaining performance rights, which are managed by licensing organizations that protect the intellectual property of the creators.

## **Script Structure**

The script is divided into two acts, each containing multiple scenes. It includes detailed stage directions that guide blocking, props, and special effects, particularly those related to Audrey II's presence on stage. The dialogue is interspersed with musical cues and lyrics, ensuring smooth transitions between spoken and sung segments.

## **Licensing and Rights**

Productions of the little shop of horrors musical script must secure rights through authorized licensing agencies. These rights grant permission to perform the show publicly and provide access to official scripts, sheet music, and production materials. Licensing fees vary depending on the size and type of the production.

## **Cultural Impact and Adaptations**

The little shop of horrors musical script has had a significant cultural impact since its release, influencing popular culture and inspiring numerous adaptations. Its unique blend of genres and memorable story continue to resonate with audiences worldwide. The script's adaptability has allowed it to cross media boundaries, reaching new generations of fans.

## **Film and Television Adaptations**

The most notable adaptation is the 1986 film directed by Frank Oz, which closely follows the musical script while introducing cinematic elements. The film helped popularize the story beyond the theater community. Additionally, there have been various television performances and revivals that draw directly from the musical script.

## **Legacy in Musical Theater**

The little shop of horrors musical script is often cited as a pioneering work in off-Broadway theater, demonstrating how innovative storytelling and music can create lasting appeal. It has inspired other creators and remains a frequently produced show in both amateur and professional theaters. The script's enduring popularity underscores its importance in the American musical theater canon.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Where can I find the official script for the Little Shop of Horrors musical?**

The official script for Little Shop of Horrors can typically be purchased from authorized publishers such as Samuel French, Concord Theatricals, or Music Theatre International (MTI). These sources provide licensed copies for production and reading.

### **Is the Little Shop of Horrors musical script different from the movie script?**

Yes, the musical script differs from the movie script. The musical includes songs and stage directions specific to live theater, while the movie script is adapted for film and may have differences in dialogue and scenes.

### **Are there any edited versions of the Little Shop of Horrors script for school performances?**

Yes, there are abridged and edited versions of the script tailored for school or youth performances. These versions often have reduced running time and content suitable for younger audiences.

### **Can I get a free copy of the Little Shop of Horrors musical script online?**

Free copies of the full official script are generally not legally available online due to copyright restrictions. However, you may find excerpts or sample pages on publisher websites for evaluation purposes.

### **What are some key elements to focus on when performing Little Shop of Horrors from the script?**

Key elements include understanding character motivations, especially Seymour and Audrey, mastering the timing of musical numbers, and effectively portraying the comedic and horror aspects as indicated in the script's stage directions.

### **Has the Little Shop of Horrors script been updated or**

## revised recently?

While the core script remains largely unchanged, some licensed versions may include minor revisions or additional performance notes. It is best to check with the current license holder or publisher for the latest authorized version.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *The Little Shop of Horrors: The Musical Script and Score*

This book contains the full script and musical score for the cult classic musical "Little Shop of Horrors." It offers readers the opportunity to study or perform the show, complete with all the iconic songs and dialogue. Perfect for theatre enthusiasts and performers alike, it provides a deep dive into the quirky world of Seymour and Audrey.

### 2. *From Screen to Stage: The Making of Little Shop of Horrors*

Explore the fascinating journey of "Little Shop of Horrors" from its original 1960 film to the beloved musical adaptation. This book delves into the creative process behind the musical's development, including interviews with writers, directors, and composers. It offers insight into the challenges and triumphs of adapting a cult film into a hit Broadway show.

### 3. *Planting Fear: The Botany of Little Shop of Horrors*

A unique blend of botany and theatre, this book examines the fictional plant Audrey II from a scientific and cultural perspective. It discusses how the plant's characteristics contribute to the horror-comedy elements of the musical. Readers will find an engaging mix of plant biology and storytelling analysis.

### 4. *The Anatomy of a Cult Musical: Little Shop of Horrors*

This book provides a comprehensive analysis of the themes, characters, and music that make "Little Shop of Horrors" a cult favorite. It explores the musical's commentary on consumerism, ambition, and morality through its dark humor. Theatre students and fans will appreciate the detailed breakdown of its narrative and production style.

### 5. *Off-Broadway to Hollywood: The Legacy of Little Shop of Horrors*

Detailing the historical impact of "Little Shop of Horrors," this book traces its influence on both theatre and film. It covers the original off-Broadway run, subsequent revivals, and the famous 1986 film adaptation. The book also highlights how the musical has maintained its popularity over decades.

### 6. *Voices of Seymour and Audrey: Character Studies from Little Shop of Horrors*

Focused on character development, this book analyzes the protagonists Seymour Krelborn and Audrey in depth. It explores their motivations, relationships, and transformations throughout the musical. Readers gain a better understanding of how these characters drive the story and resonate with audiences.

### 7. *Behind the Curtains: Directing Little Shop of Horrors*

A practical guide for theatre directors, this book offers tips and strategies for staging "Little Shop of Horrors." It includes advice on set design, casting, and integrating the musical's unique blend of horror and comedy. Directors will find valuable insights to bring out the best in this dynamic production.

#### 8. *The Soundtrack of Horror-Comedy: Music in Little Shop of Horrors*

This book analyzes the musical score of "Little Shop of Horrors," exploring how music shapes the mood and storytelling. It discusses composer Alan Menken's style and how the songs contribute to character development and plot progression. Music students and fans will appreciate the detailed exploration of the show's soundtrack.

#### 9. *Little Shop of Horrors: Costume and Set Design Inspirations*

Focusing on the visual elements of the musical, this book showcases creative costume and set designs from various productions of "Little Shop of Horrors." It highlights how design choices enhance the atmosphere and storytelling. Designers and theatre practitioners will find inspiration for their own interpretations of the show.

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